



CNE-CNA Band Visits West Africa

U.S. Africa Command Vignette

November
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Overview

Twelve musicians from Commander, U.S. Naval Forces Europe, Commander, U.S. Naval Forces Africa (CNE-CNA) completed a two-week tour in Africa to Gabon, The Gambia and Ghana from October 26 - November 6, 2010.

The CNE-CNA Band is a group of professionally trained active duty military musicians representing the U.S. Navy, U.S. Marine Corps and Allied Partner military musicians from the United Kingdom, Greece and Italy. They are responsible for performing throughout the continents of Europe and Africa, and are based in Naples, Italy.

The Band

When playing together, the 12 musicians formed the Africa Band but occasionally broke off to form two musical groups during their visit to Africa: Top Brass, the all brass quintet, and Flagship, one of CNE-CNAs rock bands.

In Action

The musicians spent many hours over the course of several days performing for and with a wide variety of audiences at schools, receptions for local government officials, TV and radio programs, and public festivals.

Several of the highlight performances included the Daniel Pearl Music Days celebration held October 28 in Libreville, Gabon and a joint performance with members of the Gambian Armed Forces Band in Banjul, The Gambia November 6. Their performances were aired on radio and television for days after for the enjoyment of thousands of viewers and listeners.



THE GAMBIA (Nov. 6, 2010)—A guitarist with the Gambian Armed Forces Band performs with a member of the CNE-CNA Band.

Bottom Line

The CNE-CNA Band visited Gabon, Ghana and The Gambia for a tour of musical performances in support of APS from Oct. 26—Nov. 6, 2010.

In Gabon, the band completed a total of six performances, including a radio and television interview/performance, reaching out to an audience of approximately 750 people.

In Ghana, nine performances saw the gathering of almost 2,600 viewers, marking the largest live audience the band received during their two-week visit to Africa.

Their final three shows were in The Gambia, with nearly 500 live viewers, including a performance with musicians from the Gambian Armed Forces Band.

Special performances were made for the British High Commissioners and U.S. Ambassadors to each country along with local government

officials.

End Result

Whether performing as the Africa Band, Top Brass or Flagship, the band speaks the international language of music. Their engagement with these countries is an essential part of building partnerships in coalition with Africa Partnership Station by promoting camaraderie between the U.S. and our African partners.

For more information on what the CNE-CNA Band, is doing in Africa, visit the APS facebook page at:
<http://www.facebook.com/home.php?#!/AfricaPartnershipStation>

